

Docket No. 10010484-2

Remarks

This Amendment is responsive to the Final Office Action of August 17, 2005. Reexamination and reconsideration of claims 4 and 6 is respectfully requested.

Summary of The Office Action

Claim 4 stands allowed.

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bohorquez (US 5357081) in view of Suzuki (US 4514737), and Doluca (US 6208127).

The Present Response

The Office Action on page 5 in the "Response to Arguments" addresses Applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references. Applicant respectfully points out that this was not the basis for Applicant's argument at all. In fact, such an argument has not even presented. Applicant's argument was based on the references failing to teach or suggest the claimed features and that even when the references are combined they fail to cure each other's shortcomings. For these reasons, claim 6 is not taught or suggested by the combination of the references and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Applicant describes the distinguishing features of claim 6 as follows.

The Claim Patentably Distinguishes Over The References Of Record

The Office Action (middle of page 2) states that Bohorquez teaches a power regulator that provides an offset voltage and cites "Fig. 3: the voltage at the positive input of element 16". Applicant respectfully submits that the explanation of Figure 3 in Bohorquez says nothing about an offset voltage being provided by the power control 20 (see column 4, lines 7-21). The disclosure discusses controlling the voltage applied to the heater resistor but, this can be

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performed in many different ways without using an offset voltage. Thus, Bohorquez does not teach or suggest that the signal at positive input of element 16 in Figure 3 is an offset voltage. It is only speculation to assume that an offset voltage is provided from the power control 20.

To further support that it is not an offset voltage, Bohorquez uses reference numeral 20 to identify a "comparator circuit 20" in prior art Figures 1 and 2, which may or may not be similar to the power control 20 in Figure 3. As seen in Figures 1 and 2, the circuitry components and connections are much different than in Figure 3. Comparator circuit 20 appears to supply the driving voltage (not an offset voltage) to the heater resistor RH (see column 3, lines 62-64 : "...resistor R1 and comparator circuit 20 are used to determine the voltage applied to the heater resistor RH..."). This is shown in Figure 1 where the input voltage from resistor R1 connects to resistor RH. An adjusted voltage is applied from level shifting circuit 16 (column 3, lines 65-68). Therefore, an offset voltage is not provided by circuit 20. Thus, this configuration is very different from the alleged interpretation suggested by the Office Action and is very different from the configuration recited in claim 6.

Therefore, the teaching of the claimed feature of a power regulator providing an offset voltage is based only on speculation and is not supported by an actual teaching or suggestion of Bohorquez. And based on column 3, lines 60-68, Bohorquez does not support the interpretation of the Office Action. As such, the references do not teach or suggest the power regulator as claimed including a self-calibration circuit. Therefore, Bohorquez does not support the rejection, the other references do not cure these shortcomings, and the rejection must be withdrawn.

Additionally, the Office Action uses Suzuki to teach a power regulator for providing an offset voltage from the internal power supply path voltage, which Bohorquez fails to disclose (See Office Action, middle of page 3). Conversely, the Office Action then states that "Suzuki does not teach providing an offset voltage" (Office Action, bottom of page 5). Applicant assumes that the statement on page 5 is the current position of the Examiner since page 5 reflects a current "Response" and that page 3 reflects a copy of the previous, outdated Office Action.

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Continuing on page 5, the Office Action states that Suzuki suggests using the power supply as voltage sample to control the driving, which cures the shortcomings of Bohorquez. However, the driving taught by Suzuki is performed with a different function and in a different way than Bohorquez, which produces a different result. Suzuki connects the voltage Vcc to a level shift circuit 29, which outputs to the microcontroller 30, which in turn produces a drive pulse signal p, not an offset voltage. Furthermore, "Microcontroller 30 produces a drive pulse signal p...whose rise time is delayed with reference to the timing signal d3 for the interval mentioned." (Suzuki, column 6, lines 59-63). This is much different than the operation of Bohorquez.

Suzuki does not teach that the voltage Vcc can be inputted to a controller and then ignore the rest of the circuit. One of ordinary skill in the art would not understand Suzuki in this manner. The Office Action attempts to teach the features of claim 6 in a piece-meal fashion, which is improper, but even the piece-meal combination still fails to teach the specific claimed configuration of claim 6.

Suzuki uses the power supply to provide the driving pulse signal p, not an offset voltage. Bohorquez's Figure 3 is vague as to what is being output from power control 20, but it is not based on voltage from the power supply, and Figures 1 and 2 state that circuit 20 outputs a driving voltage, not an offset voltage. Thus, both references fail to teach or suggest a power regulator providing an offset voltage from the internal power supply as recited in claim 6 and thus a power regulator that includes the recited self-calibration circuit. Therefore, the resulting combination of Bohorquez and Suzuki still fails to teach or suggest the elements of claim 6.

Therefore claim 6 patentably distinguishes over the references of record and is in condition for allowance

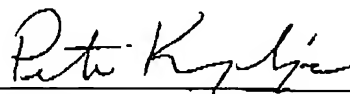
As for Doluca, since Bohorquez in view of Suzuki fail to teach the recited power regulator in claim 6, combining the voltage regulator of Doluca fails to cure these shortcomings. Therefore, claim 6 patentably distinguishes over the references of record and is in condition for allowance.

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Conclusion

For the reasons set forth above, **claims 4 and 6** patentably and unobviously distinguish over the references of record and are now in condition for allowance. An early allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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